Interpreting HEDIS Percentiles

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Percentiles: Definition

- A percentile is best described as a comparison score. It is a measure of relative standing of an observation within a data set.
- One of 100 equal parts of a series of measurements are arranged in order of their magnitude.

Example: The 90th percentile is the value in the series below which over 89% of the values fall

Percentiles:

- Percentiles split a set of ordered data into hundredths
- If you score a 71 on an exam, what percentage of students scored lower than you?
  - Depends on the total number of exam scores, and how they are ranked after they are ordered

Percentiles:

Using Examples of 2007 HEDIS® Benchmarks

- **Ranking of scores depends on both the range of values and the frequency of any one value within the data set**
  - If most scores are low, a relatively low score may be ranked as a high percentile
    - 90th percentile for Chlamydia Screening = 48.6%
  - If most scores are high, a relatively high score may be ranked as a low percentile
    - 50th percentile for diabetes HgbA1c = 88.2%
    - So, about half of all health plans submitting HEDIS® data had screened 88.2 % of their patients following the measure definition

Percentiles

- You cannot perform the same mathematical and statistical operations on percentiles that you can on raw scores. For example, you shouldn't compute means and standard deviations of percentile scores.
- You should also know that percentile scores are not normally distribu

HEDIS® Commercial Percentiles

- Are based on data submitted by commercial healthcare plans who participate in HEDIS®
- About 90% of all managed care organizations in the U.S. submit HEDIS® data for comparison. DoD does not submit data for HEDIS® comparison or public reporting
- All methodology is standardized
- New percentile rankings (benchmarks) are published in March of each year
- Relative percentile ranking of any score will change depending on each year's data that is submitted (which plans and how much each plan participates)

Need more information?

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